Shifting of Konark Wheel

1628. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn into the news-item captioning "Inexplicable shifting of Konark Wheel" appearing in the Statesman of the 28th November, 1991; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction to the spending of such a huge amount for shifting the wheel?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The shifting of Konark wheel to the main porch in Ashok Hotel, New Delhi involving specialised skill at a nominal cost of Rs. 54,000 was done in order to enable better exposure to visitors of this beautiful artefact.

Misuse of position for free Air Travel

1629. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn into a news item captioning "misuse of position for free air travel" appearing in The Times of India of the 20th November, 1991;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the charges against the Airport Manager of the International Airports Authority of India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Indian Airlines found an employee of the International Airports Authority of India attempting to travel on a ticket and identity card provided to him by a private courier company. The Indian Airlines did not allow him to travel. The preliminary investigation conducted by IAAI revealed that the concerned employee had obtained an Indian Airlines flight ticket No. 231881 in his name from M/s. Patel On-Board Courier Ltd. for sector Bombay-Calcutta by Flight IC-274 of November 5, 1991. Based on the preliminary investigations, the officer has been placed under suspension.

New Tourist Spots During Seventh Plan Period

1630. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) detailed plans to make tourism more attractive; and

(b) new tourist spots identified during the Seventh Plan and details of action plan for their development?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Plan to make tourism more attractive in the country include improvement of infrastructural facilities, removal of constraints and impediments, promotion and publicity both in domestic and overseas markets etc.

(b) The identification of tourist spots and its development is a continuous process and is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Department of Tourism have extended